

# Emergency group honors best in Texas

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) has named eight physicians in Texas “Heroes of Emergency Medicine.” The campaign, part of ACEP’s 40th anniversary, recognizes emergency physicians who have made significant contributions to emergency medicine, their communities and their patients. ACEP is accepting nominations through the end of the year. ACEP, a national medical specialty society, is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research and public education. Several of the physicians honored are well-known in the EMS and trauma communities.



Edward Racht, MD

## Edward Racht, MD

*Medical Director, City of Austin/Travis County EMS System Austin; Chair, Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council – State of Texas*

As chair of the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council for nine years, Dr. Racht is well-known to the EMS and trauma communities. He has been actively involved in national initiatives to improve overall morbidity and mortality through development of clinically sophisticated EMS systems. Dr. Racht is best known for his tireless efforts to develop partnerships in the emergency health care system. The Austin/Travis County EMS System was noted as an example of effective

collaboration in the Institute of Medicine report “Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads.” His clinical talks at Texas EMS Conference always draw big crowds.



Paul E. Pepe, MD, MPH, FACP, MACP, FCCM

## Paul E. Pepe, MD, MPH, FACP, MACP, FCCM

*Professor of Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Public Health and Chair, Emergency Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas; Director, City of Dallas Medical Emergency Services for Public Health, Public Safety and Homeland Security*

Dr. Pepe is a global lecturer and author of hundreds of scientific papers, including landmark studies in multiple disciplines. A leader and innovator in CPR, trauma, emergency ventilation and disaster care, he serves as emergency medicine trauma consultant for many notable entities, including the NIH, White House Medical Unit, U.S. Secret Service and NBA trainers. Dr. Pepe co-founded the EMS State of the Science (“Gathering of Eagles”) conference and is a longtime and popular speaker at Texas EMS Conference.



Raymond L. Fowler, MD, FACP

## Raymond L. Fowler, MD, FACP

*Co-Director, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Section of EMS, Homeland Security and Disaster Medicine; Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine/Surgery and Allied Health, UT Southwestern and Parkland Emergency Department, Dallas*

Dr. Fowler was named EMS Medical Director of the Year by DSHS in 2006 and received the prestigious national Neely Award from NAEMSP. He helped found the EMS State of the Science (“Gathering of Eagles”) conference, and the Eagles group created ACEP’s first-ever “Advanced EMS Medical Directors Course.” When 40,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees arrived at the Dallas Convention Center in 2005, Dr. Fowler led the team that created a temporary hospital, pharmacy, eye clinic, mental health sector, rehab center and pediatric care zone. Dr. Fowler gave the closing session talk at Texas EMS Conference 2007 and will be presenting again this year in Fort Worth.

**Student rate:**  
**Texas EMS Magazine**  
**\$20 for 2 years!**

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**Arlo F. Weltge, MD, FACEP**

*Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Texas Medical School at Houston; Attending Emergency Physician, Memorial Hermann Hospital, Houston; ACEP Council Vice-Speaker*

Dr. Weltge has tirelessly taught and advocated on behalf of EMS in the Houston area and was selected to establish an emergency medicine residency program at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He co-founded the Houston Society of Emergency Medicine in 1986, and established emergency medicine as a recognized specialty in the Texas Medical Association. He is a respected teacher of medical students and residents.

**Juan F. Fitz, MD, FACEP**

*Assistant Director, Emergency Department, Covenant Medical Center, Lubbock Clinical Faculty, Texas Tech, Lubbock; Medical Director and Chair, EMT Paramedic Program, El Paso Community College, El Paso*

Dr. Fitz serves as medical director and chair of the EMT Paramedic Program at El Paso Community College. He is active in promoting the field of emergency medicine, serving on ACEP's Steering Committee and Air Medical Section and acting as spokesperson of ACEP's Public Relations Committee. He is also a board member of the Texas College of Emergency Physicians.

**Diana L. Fite, MD, FACEP**

*Attending Staff Physician, Methodist Willowbrook Hospital, Houston; Attending Staff Physician, Christus St. Catherine's Hospital, Katy; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine Residency Program, University of Texas Medical School at Houston*

A mother of eight children, Dr. Fite survived a stroke in 2006. She not only returned to work, but has spoken publicly about her experience for the "Give Me 5" stroke campaign.

Dr. Fite has served in many leadership positions in organized medicine, including being the first emergency physician to serve as president of the Harris County Medical

Society, the largest county medical society in the nation, with more than 10,000 members. In the early 1980s, Dr. Fite recognized that a significant number of emergency patients were unrecognized as victims of domestic violence. She became the first physician member of the Houston Area Women's Center board of directors and gave many lectures throughout Texas educating physicians on the subject in the years before awareness grew.

**James M. Williams, MS, DO**

*Staff Emergency Medicine Physician, Methodist Healthcare System; Former Medical Director, Emergency Department, Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital; Chief of Staff, Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital San Antonio, Texas*

Dr. Williams' passions are quality improvement, process improvement and resuscitation. Throughout Methodist Healthcare System's five hospitals, committees on which Dr. Williams has served have instituted proactive initiatives that significantly benefitted patients, including the implementation of a Rapid Response Team (RRT). During the RRT's first year, code survival increased from 13 percent to 53 percent, while survival to discharge increased from 8 percent to 28 percent.

**Robert L. Levine, MD, FACEP**

*Professor, Neurosurgery and Emergency Medicine, Memorial Hermann Hospital, Houston*

Dr. Levine has worked for more than 20 years to promote emergency medicine. Research published by Dr. Levine and others on cardiac arrest and resuscitation in journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *JAMA* helped move emergency medicine to the academic forefront. As part of the initial group of Emergency Medicine-Critical Care Medicine specialists, he has worked and continues to work with ACEP and the American Board of Emergency Medicine to advance the case for CCM board eligibility for emergency medicine trainees.